



28 September 2017

The Honourable Mr Robert Katter
Mount.Isa@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir

I write in support of the Safer Waterways Bill which is an initiative of the Katter party.

Our Club was established in 1983. Over the past five years there have been more sightings of crocodiles from the beach than the twenty-nine years previously.

Recently we have had two sightings of a large 4 metre crocodile in the patrolled bathing area of Four Mile Beach.

At the most recent sighting on Monday 28 August 2017 a 4 metre crocodile swam parallel to the Beach 20 metres offshore. This necessitated the closure of the bathing reserve but also required the lifeguard to traverse the full length of Four Mile Beach warning more than 30 swimmers who were outside the flagged area.

Over the past thirty-four years we have enjoyed the ocean for swimming and surf activities. We have until recent years considered the risk of Crocodiles to be acceptable, however with the increased frequency of sightings and the recent brazen displays of large crocodiles in daylight hours just off the beach means the risk has moved to an unacceptable level. We are very concerned for the safety not just of our club members but the public at large.

Club membership is based on nipper enrolment. The number of nippers and consequently club members has reduced this year by 20% from last year. The reduction in membership is a direct consequence of the frequency of crocodile sightings.

Port Douglas is already experiencing negative press in regard to crocodiles making the waterways unsafe. A fatality in the area will have devastating effects on the tourist industry and will certainly cause the demise of the Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club which will have the consequence that future generations of youngsters will not be able to participate in lifesaving activities.

The Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club supports the Safer Waterways legislation as proposed by the Katter Party,

Yours Sincerely

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“Our aim is to operate a successful community sporting organisation, building participation in surf sports, and through this participation, increase the strength and capabilities of the Club as a lifesaving organisation”